



Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr., Governor  
James W. Payne, Director

**Indiana Department of Child Services**  
Room W392 - MS03  
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[www.in.gov/dcs](http://www.in.gov/dcs)

**Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline: 800-800-5556**

**Meeting Date:** June 27, 2006

**Meeting Location:** Lake County Juvenile Justice Center  
Crown Point, Indiana

**Council Members Present:** Richard Ban, Jane Bisbee, Mary Beth Bonaventura  
Glenn Commons, Melanie Cox, Rita Daniels, Deborah Harris, Cindy Kambesis,  
Jeffrey Miller, Charlotte Peller, and Lynda Wheeler

**Council Members Absent:** Robin Freeland, Elizabeth Tegarden

**Also in attendance:** Director Payne, Susan Tielking

## **Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Called to Order at:** 3:35 PM

The April Minutes were reviewed and approved

Council members were given a map of Lake County that shows the areas where child abuse and neglect have been substantiated.

Dr. Hug from IU Northwest is working with Ms. Bisbee in collection of the data and statistics.





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Discussion on the Community Partners for Child Safety project was next. Ms. Bisbee met with the vendors chosen. A decision was made that Dunebrook (Bethune Family Resource Center) will take the lead and Villages will be sub-contracted by Dunebrook. The RSC members had no objection to this plan but would like to hear from the vendors. One program will be developed that incorporates both vendors proposals. Ms. Bisbee shared the minutes from her meeting with Dunebrook and The Villages with the Regional Council members. There will be an Advisory Board and the hope is to pull in as many agencies as able to work together. The Community Partners for Child Safety will work with unsubstantiated referrals not just from DCS but schools, and churches, and other agencies. They will help with such areas as transportation and proper housing.

Director Payne suggest the Regional Service Council has some say on hiring the Project Manager. The Project Manager will have to be someone who will be able to get communities and agencies to work together. He/She will have to identify the community partners and be able to work with other vendors for these preventive services.

Director Payne then said a few words to the Council about the direction of the Department of Child Services. Lake County will be hiring more FCMs and caseloads will lower. A higher level of professionalism and training for on-going staff will be required for staff. Additional supervisors will also be hired for the new staff. The Bachelor of Social Work IV-E program provides university students with financial assistance and in turn they will work as Family Case Managers for DCS upon graduation.





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He also discussed that Indiana was the 4<sup>th</sup> state to go through the second round of federal review and the criteria on the review has changed.

Indiana could have fiscal sanctions if we do not do satisfactory on the federal review.

A challenge of the Regional Service Council is open dialogue and support for services. Ms. Harris states the Foster Parents need improved training. Another statement was the children need complete medical and dental check-ups.

The new DCS Practice Model discussion began but was tabled due to the time of day.

Meeting adjourned 4:45 pm. The next meeting is July 25, 2006.





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*Protecting our children, families and future*

